He next proceeded to speak about the means of increasing the output of paddy. He thought that the introduction of scientific cultivation on up-to-date lines and the use of artificial manures would increase the output of paddy at least by 50 per cent. He therefore suggested the opening of manure depôts and model demonstration farms in different parts of the taluk.

The next point referred to by the Member was the deteriorated condition of cattle. He said that, owing to the absence of seed bulls, the cattle of the taluk were gradually going down, both in number and quality, and suggested the advisability of maintaining seed bulls and of opening cattle farms to demonstrate to the ryots the methods of scientific breeding of cattle.

The Member next spoke about the damage caused to agriculturists by wild animals living in those portions of reserved forests that were lying scattered among the inhabited parts of the taluk. He said that the revenue derived by the Government from such portions was very trifling as compared with the damage sustained by the ryots, and suggested that an area of 1,000 acres lying to the west of Tala-Mala Makka Tandu in the Karikôde *pakuthi* might be protected from the inroads of wild elephants by digging a trench around it at a cost of nearly Rs. 5,000.

While on the above subject, the Member also referred to the difficulties experienced by the agriculturists in hilly tracts by the cancellation by the Government, in 1097, of the rules permitting the use of fire arms without licenses. The Member prayed that the resolution passed on the subject by the Legislative Council might be given effect to and that extension of time might be allowed for the presentation of applications for licenses.

Finally, the Member thanked the Government for having sanctioned all the agricultural loans applied for by the people of Todupuzha in 1098 and suggested that arrangements be made to enable poor ryots to get such loans without difficulty.

President's reply—Government are trying to improve agriculture as far as possible. Your representations for improving agriculture are noted.

You have spoken of depredations by elephants and the loss caused by them and you say that extension of time should be granted for taking out licenses for fire arms. I understand that none of you have applied for licenses. When applications are made, the matter will be duly considered.

The other point you have mentioned is that lands within certain reserved forests should be registered in favour of ryots for purposes of cultivation. This will be noted.

44. Development of paddy cultivation.

Mr. Nagur Miran Miranan Mira Rowther (Member, Nominated) began by emphasising the necessity for increasing the area under paddy cultivation in the State so that the quantity of paddy produced in the State might be made sufficient for local consumption without importation of foreign paddy. At one time the quantity of paddy produced in Travancore was not only sufficient to meet local demands but even left a small surplus for exportation, while the quantity now produced was scarcely sufficient to meet the requirements of even one-fourth of the population. Consequently people had to depend upon imported paddy for their livelihood, and when importation became difficult, as was the case during the recent European War, the people would be put to great hardship. Such being the case, the time had come for finding out immediate means to develop the paddy industry in the State. The need for the extension of paddy cultivation had become all the more imperative because of the constant increase in the population of the State.

While on that topic, the Member referred to the work of the Agricultural Department which, he said, was not achieving the objects aimed at by the Government. The activities of the Department were confined to places like Nanjinad and Kuttanad, and the people of the north-eastern taluks, especially Pattanamtitta, were not deriving any benefit from that Department. He therefore prayed that the attention of the

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Department might be drawn to the above fact and instructions issued to it to render the needed help to the agriculturists of those taluks.

He then suggested the desirability of throwing open for paddy cultivation large areas in the reserved forests over-grown with *eata* and grass which were practically useless to the Forest Department. He said that in olden days people were carrying on *malavaram* cultivation in such places. There was then no scarcity of paddy and the Government also were getting as revenue a twentieth share of the produce. With the abolition of such cultivation, many people had been reduced to abject poverty and misery. To alleviate their condition, he prayed that the areas mentioned above might be leased out for paddy cultivation at least as an experimental measure for a fixed term of years subject to the payment of appropriate rent. He said that the Government would gain nothing by reserving such areas, but on the other hand they would get a revenue if the lands were registered, besides materially benefiting the people. While on that subject the Member said that it was gratifying to note that the Government had resolved to throw open for paddy cultivation swampy areas within reserved forests ; but that measure alone would not secure the needed relief to the people. He therefore once again urged the necessity of registering grass-lands and *eata* areas within reserved forests. He suggested that a belt of land one furlong in width should be left all round the swamps disafforested with a view to enable the settlers to carry on dry cultivation.

The Member next referred to the miserable condition of the Mahomedans of the Pattanamtitta taluk. He said that they were generally poor, uneducated and landless. The majority of them depended on agriculture for their livelihood and were the descendants of those who originally settled in those places for purposes of carrying on *malavaram* cultivation. With the prohibition of such cultivation they were reduced to abject penury. In consideration of their pitiable condition the Member prayed that the lands to be disafforested in the Pattanamtitta taluk might be registered in their favour without auction.

In conclusion, he conveyed the good wishes and gratitude of the members of his community to His Highness the Maha Raja and the other members of the Royal family for the several concessions extended to them.

President's reply.—A Committee has been appointed to look into the matter of assignment of lands in the Pattanamtitta taluk. The Government will pass orders on the report of that Committee.

The Assembly adjourned at 5 P. M.

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